**Legalism**

Main Idea and Summary

Legalism highlights the importance that social order is sustain by having strong government control and the use of other forces. The originator, Han Feizi’s writing influenced both Qin ShiHuang’s court politics and classic Chinese thought. Feizi’s philosophy states that a ruler should pick his officials or people to uphold law from common men/civilians than private, crooked aristocrats. Officials cannot make arbitrary law but only fair and respectful laws. Once law is applied, it cannot be rejected by anyone. No being can defy the invincible law. Early kings esteemed legalism and handed to future kings. Intelligent rulers should control his ministers with “two handles”, chastisement and commendation. A ruler should give this authority to his minister officials/administer. It gives people in the county fear of officials.

Statement

After the failed feudal-like system of having aristocrats rule region was the decline of the Zhou dynasty. Legalism is a realistic, concrete and authority philosophy for ruling a country while Confucianism and Daoism present more of the ideal way to run a country.